CLAIMS

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A post for use adjacent roadways for supporting an object, the post comprising:

a hollow sleeve formed of polymeric resin, the sleeve having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the exterior surface of the sleeve defining an exterior of the post;

one end of the sleeve being adapted to be received in and supported by a ground surface, and an opposite end of the sleeve extending from the ground surface [and being adapted to be secured to the object], wherein a majority of the post extends from the ground surface; and

a core disposed within the sleeve and generally coextensive with and secured directly to the interior surface of the sleeve, the core being formed at least partially of recycled crumb rubber, wherein the core and sleeve are continuous and have generally uniform mechanical properties along the post from the one end to the opposite end.

2. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the sleeve and core are circular in cross-section and the core is hollow.

3. (Previously Presented) The post according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric resin is high-density polyethylene.

4. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the core is formed of at least 10% by weight recycled crumb rubber, the balance being recycled thermoplastic resin.

5. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the core is formed of at least 20% by weight recycled crumb rubber, the balance being recycled thermoplastic resin.

6. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the object is a highway sign having an area of less than 10 square feet.

7. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the sleeve and core are co-extruded.

8. (Original) The post according to claim 1 wherein the post has crash properties conforming to NCHRP Report 350.

9. (Currently Amended) A post for use adjacent roadways for supporting an object, the post comprising:

a continuous sleeve formed of thermoplastic resin that is circular in cross-section and has a lower end adapted to be received in and supported by a ground surface, an upper end and a majority of the sleeve length extending from the ground surface and adapted to be secured to the object, the sleeve further having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the exterior surface defining the exterior of the post; and

a continuous hollow core disposed within the sleeve and generally coextensive with and secured directly to the interior surface of the sleeve, the core being formed of a polymer having a composition including at least 10% by weight recycled crumb rubber, wherein the sleeve and core are continuous and have generally uniform mechanical properties from the upper end to the lower end.

10. (Original) The post according to claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic resin is high-density polyethylene.

11. (Original) The post according to claim 9 wherein the polymer contains at least 20% by weight recycled crumb rubber, the balance being recycled thermoplastic resin.

12. (Original) The post according to claim 9 wherein the object is a highway sign having an area of less than 10 square feet.

13. (Original) The post according to claim 9 wherein the sleeve and core are co-extruded.

14. (Original) The post according to claim 9 wherein the post has crash properties selected to conform to NCHRP Report 350.

15. (Original) The post according to claim 11 wherein the sleeve and core are circular in cross-section.

16. (Currently Amended) A post for use adjacent roadways, the post comprising:

a hollow sleeve formed of high-density polyethylene that is circular in cross-section and has an interior surface and an exterior surface, the exterior surface defining the exterior of the post, the sleeve having a lower end adapted to be received in and supported by a ground surface and an upper end and a majority of the length of the post extending from the ground surface and adapted to be secured to the object;

a core secured ~~and disposed within the sleeve~~ directly to and generally coextensive with the interior surface of the sleeve, the core being formed of a polymer having a composition including:

at least 10% by weight recycled crumb rubber; and

the balance a low-melt-index polyethylene;

wherein the sleeve and core are co-extruded together to form a continuous post having generally uniform mechanical properties along its length from the upper end to the lower end.

17. (Original) The post according to claim 16 wherein the post has crash properties selected to conform to NCHRP Report 350.

18. (Original) The post according to claim 16 wherein the polymer contains at least 20% by weight recycled crumb rubber, the balance being low-melt-index recycled polyethylene.

19. (Original) The post according to claim 16 wherein the post supports a highway sign having an area of less than 10 square feet.

20. (Original) The post according to claim 16 wherein the sleeve and core are circular in cross-section and the core is hollow.